

EPA PFAS Action Plan

January 24, 2018

Background

PFAS is a category of man-made chemicals that are found in everyday items, including food packaging (pizza boxes), nonstick products (Teflon), and stain repellent fabrics, etc. Within this category of PFAS, there may be some 3,000 compounds, such as GenX, PFOA and PFOS. PFAS chemicals have been found in drinking water, at Superfund sites and at industrial facilities. PFOA and PFOS have been phased out, others including GenX, are currently in production, including at the Chemours facilities in West Virginia and North Carolina.

Everyone is exposed to these chemicals; they can accumulate in the human body and in the environment. Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can cause health issues, including reproductive, developmental, liver, kidney, and immunological effects, along with cancer in laboratory animals. EPA has taken action to set health advisories for two of these chemicals—PFOA and PFOS. States are asking EPA to help them sample and measure these chemicals, provide them with information on what levels are safe, and develop tools that help them communicate to the public about this issue.

What has EPA done to-date?

- Issued drinking water health advisories (70 parts per trillion) for PFOA and PFOS in 2016
- Established methods to measure 14 PFAS compounds in drinking water; identified five treatment processes for PFOA and PFOS
- Provided national monitoring data for 6 PFAS in drinking water
- Identified all PFAS chemicals that are legally available for production and use
- Provided support for 10 states with site-specific PFAS challenges and problems
 - NC (Cape Fear River/Chemours), MI (Wolverine), WV (Chemours), CO (Peterson Air Force), NY (Hoosick Falls), OH (Chemours), NH (St. Gobain), ME, VT and NJ
- Established online clearinghouse of tools and information so that states can understand, assess and address PFAS incidents and emergencies
- Activated EPA's regional rapid response network to help states/tribe/municipalities

What's next for EPA?

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5